

Message

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY REPORT

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Report Highlights

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Highlights

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: THIS WEEK IN CHEMICALS

EPA Releases Previously Private Health Data on Pigment (1)

By Pat Rizzuto

Previously confidential details on the health effects associated with exposure to a paint pigment were released by the EPA March 22 following pressure from Democratic legislators and environmental health advocacy groups.

Solvents, Phthalates Among 40 Chemicals EPA to Vet This Year (1)

By Pat Rizzuto

The EPA released a list of 40 chemicals March 20 that it will examine this year to decide which 20 are a "high priority" to proceed down a pipeline that could lead to restrictions.

Monsanto Roundup Trials May Lead to More Local Regulation

By Adam Allington

The same day that a federal jury found that Monsanto's Roundup herbicide was a "substantial factor" in causing a California man's cancer, Los Angeles County placed a moratorium on the use of Roundup by county employees.

Roundup Case Signals Trouble Ahead for Chemical Companies **(1)**

By Sylvia Carignan

Manufacturers of glyphosate like BASF, Syngenta, and DowDuPont are likely to face increased pressure to warn consumers of the health risks of their products, particularly in the wake of Bayer AG's loss in a trial over claims its Roundup weed killer causes cancer, an environmental consultant said.

Plastic Trash Backlash Threatens Lean Years for Chemical Makers

By Jack Kaskey

The chemical industry is heading for a slowdown as society turns against disposable plastics and the rise of recycling weakens demand, IHS Markit predicted at its annual World Petrochemical Conference.

Houston 'Kind of Normalized' to Chemical Fires

By Sam Pearson

Authorities in Harris County, Texas, face a difficult task in letting a chemical fire burn for days even as the Houston region is covered in dark smoke.

EU Prepares to Review Controversial Herbicide Glyphosate— Again

By Stephen Gardner

The European Union is preparing to once again assess the safety of glyphosate, the world's most widely used herbicide.

Explosion Levels Benzene Chemical Plant on China East Coast (1)

By Michael Standaert

An explosion at a plant producing benzene and other chemical substances near China's coastal city of Yancheng, Jiangsu province, has killed at least six people and injured 30, according to the state-run Xinhua News Agency.

THIS WEEK IN CLIMATE NEWS

EPA's Pruitt Faced Hill Pressure on Glider Truck Rule Repeal (1)

By Abby Smith

The EPA's yearslong, tenuous effort to ease air pollution limits on trucks with rebuilt engines can be traced back to a day early in Scott Pruitt's tenure as administrator.

Judge Says Feds Must Look at Oil, Gas Lease Effects on Climate Change

By Bernie Pazanowski and Tripp Baltz

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management must take a hard look at the impact that oil and gas leases on federal land could have on climate change before selling them, a federal judge said.

IBM, Bank of America Trying to Avoid Climate Fight With Peers

By Abby Smith

Climate-oriented firms should frame carbon-cutting and clean energy policies as better business opportunities for all, rather than attacking corporate opponents of climate regulation, several executives said March 21.

Climate Advocates Cheer Trump Policy Shift on Flood Insurance

By Christopher Flavelle

Climate advocates say an overhaul of the nation's flood insurance program being unveiled by the Trump administration will spur communities around the country to better plan for extreme weather, but could drive up costs for some homeowners.

Trump Keeps Funding Alive for UN Body Overseeing Climate Accord

By Dean Scott

President Donald Trump is still bent on withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris climate accord, but will keep funding the United Nations body that oversees its implementation, a senior administration official told Bloomberg Environment March 18.

Trump Climate Denial Poses National Security Danger, Inslee Says

By Rebecca Kern

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D), a 2020 presidential hopeful, criticized President Donald Trump on March 20 for not taking action on climate change risks to military bases.

Energy Panel's Tonko Sets Guideposts for Climate Legislation

By Abby Smith

The head of a House energy subcommittee unveiled a set of climate policy principles March 21, sketching out in broad terms what he believes any climate legislation should incorporate.

THIS WEEK IN AIR, WATER AND WASTE

Water a Bigger Priority for EPA Chief Than Climate

By David Schultz

The head of the EPA said water, not climate change, is the most pressing environmental issue the world is facing.

Coastal States' Approaches to Fluorinated Chemicals Converge **(1)**

By Sylvia Carignan

West Coast states have focused on getting a family of ubiquitous chemicals out of pizza boxes and popcorn bags, but are starting to turn their attention to East Coast states' top priority: limiting the contaminants in drinking water.

EPA Budget Cuts Could Limit Hazardous Waste Site Decisions **(1)**

By Sylvia Carignan

President Donald Trump's proposed budget cuts could hamper the EPA's efforts to link contamination at hazardous waste sites to companies and others that may be responsible for the pollution, environmental consultants said March 19.

Bipartisan Pushback Against Some Environmental Cuts

By Dean Scott

For the third time since taking office, President Donald Trump wants to make deep cuts to clean energy and environmental programs, but some of those programs have broad bipartisan constituencies.

California Tells NASA to Stay the Course on Santa Susana Cleanup

By Emily C. Dooley

The tug-of-war over cleaning up a former nuclear research and rocket testing facility in California's Simi Valley continued March 20, with the state telling NASA officials it intended to hold them accountable for cleaning up contaminants at the site.

Interior Wants Recreation Access Considered in Public Land Sales

By Rebecca Kern

Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt issued an order March 21 that aims to ensure access for outdoor recreation—including hunting and fishing—is considered when selling or exchanging public lands.

Senators Ready Wish Lists for Murkowski, Manchin Energy Bill

By Dean Scott

The Senate wants to be prepared if House Democrats move clean energy and climate change bills.

Pacific Cod Plan Improperly Favors Two Alaskan Communities

By Daniel Seiden

The National Marine Fishery Service must revamp its plan for managing Pacific cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands archipelago, a federal court ruled.

LNG Exports Highlight Climate Clash at Energy Regulator

By Stephen Cunningham

Venture Global LNG Inc.'s \$5 billion Calcasieu Pass Liquefied Natural Gas terminal in Louisiana is the latest flash point in federal regulators' ongoing battle over climate change.

THIS WEEK'S INSIGHTS

INSIGHT: Genomics Could Make Toxic Mass Tort, Class Actions Harder to Win

Many mass tort and class action suits like the one involving Johnson & Johnson's baby powder presume all people react to environmental exposures the same way. Medical geneticist Dr. Bob Wassman says genomics could make winning cases harder because genomics can show whether cancer was caused by toxins or something else.

INSIGHT: Shareholder Activism—Boards Need to Assess Vulnerabilities

Skadden Arps attorneys say shareholder activism is here to stay and look at trends for 2019. Taking steps to prepare for activism is critical in helping companies effectively engage with activists, and in many instances it can assist companies in driving shareholder value and avoiding activist activity altogether.

INSIGHT: Fifth Circuit Gives Employers Blueprint on Independent Contractors

A recent Fifth Circuit decision offers a blueprint on the appropriate way a company can establish independent contractor relationships with consultants. The case involved oil drillers in Texas and the result is a win for energy companies, says Lionel Schooler, a labor attorney with Jackson Walker LLP in Houston.

THIS WEEK IN THE STATES

Colorado River States Reach Deal to Confront 19-Year Drought

By Emily C. Dooley, Tripp Baltz and Brenna Goth

The seven states that depend on water from the Colorado River agreed to a plan for reducing the effects of a 19-year drought along the stressed waterway, although the deal excludes the river's largest user.

Colorado Aims for Paris Climate Goals With Bill to Cut Emissions (1)

By Tripp Baltz

Colorado would have to cut its greenhouse gas emissions significantly by 2050 in line with goals set in the 2015 Paris climate agreement under legislation the state's lawmakers will consider.

Hawaii's Novel Plastic Bans Inch Closer to Legislative Approval

By David McAfee

Hawaii state lawmakers are getting closer to passing a first-in-the-nation ban on single-use plastics as a means to reduce local and marine pollution.

California to Push Emergency Worker Safety Reg on Wildfire Smoke

By David McAfee

California worker safety regulators March 21 voted to push emergency regulatory protections for outdoor workers affected by dangerous smoke cause by wildfires.

California Lithium Exploration Project Under Scrutiny

By Emily C. Dooley

A Canadian minerals company plans to drill four exploratory wells on federal conservation land near Death Valley in California to look for lithium, the so-called white gold mineral that powers mobile phones, laptops, and electric vehicles.

Rat Poisons Get Another Look After Wildlife Deaths in California

By Emily C. Dooley

California is taking another look at a family of pesticides used to kill house mice and rats after studies showed the poisoned rodents were eaten by mountain lions, bobcats, owls, skunks, and other wildlife that later died.

Maine Aims to Double Number of Electric Cars on the Road (1)

By Adrienne Appel

Maine plans to offer incentives to nearly double the number of electric vehicles in the state over the next few years, Gov. Janet Mills (D) announced March 21.

Connecticut Plan Could Limit Projects in Long Island Sound

By Adrienne Appel

Connecticut released a plan to protect Long Island Sound that could lead to some restrictions on development in the rich estuary being eyed by wind developers and fish farms.

Utilities to Go Carbon Free by 2045 Under Law in New Mexico

By Brenna Goth

New Mexico power companies must cut their carbon emissions to zero by 2045 under a new law that also addresses the closing of a coal plant in the northwestern part of the state.

Dominion Coal Ash Cleanup Bill Heads to Virginia Governor

By Jim Efstathiou Jr.

Virginia's House of Delegates passed Dominion's coal-ash cleanup bill Feb. 15, prepping the measure to be sent to Gov. Ralph Northam (D), who supports cleaning up the residuals from coal-fired power plants.



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